

REMARKS

Claims 3-13 and 15-32 are presented for consideration, with Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24 being independent.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesy extended toward their representative during the personal interview of August 11, 2003. The interview focused primarily on the independent claims (particularly Claim 3) and the applied art to Webb '135 and Ouchi '096.

A discussion of the applied art included whether it was known to include detecting that the document has been set to the reader in view of the teachings in Webb and Ouchi.

In that regard, all of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Webb '135 in view of Ouchi '096. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's representative Claim 3 relates to a remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a process operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command. The method includes the steps of detecting that the document has been set to the reader, and displaying, on the external device, a virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel in response to the detection in the detecting step. In addition, a command of the remotely controllable apparatus is generated corresponding to an operation of

the virtual control panel, and the generated command is supplied to the remotely controllable apparatus.

As discussed at the interview, the Webb patent relates to a host computer in communication with one or more printers. With reference to Figure 1, the host computer 11 and printer 16 are connected to each other, with an operator panel 35 provided on the printer, and a replica of the panel provided at the host computer 11 at dialog box 63.

The secondary citation to Ouchi relates to an image input/output system and was cited for providing a personal computer and a multifunction peripheral apparatus. The multifunction peripheral apparatus includes a detector for detecting various errors, such as print sheet jam, print ink shortage, etc., and a scanning device 5 and a printing device 6.

It is acknowledged that detecting various errors, such as paper jam, in an apparatus such as a printer is, per se, known. It is respectfully submitted, however, that even if such a detection can be made, it does not lead to displaying a virtual control panel in response to this detection.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination of art, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 3. Independent Claims 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24 are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

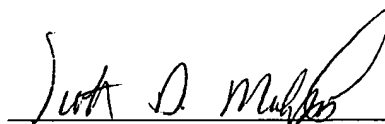
Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 5-12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25-32 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. For example, new Claims 26-32 set forth that, with multiple users, the virtual control panel can be edited for each user. Support for the new claims can be found, for

example, beginning on page 27, line 1 of the specification. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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